

Due to an enormous increase in the costs of operation, the Boys Home was discontinued in 1973. Its assets were sold, and the proceeds formed the endowment fund known as the Lark Ellen Lions Charities. From that time until now, Lark Ellen has approved donations of approximately \$1.5 million for the benefit of inner-city youth.

After many decades of meeting in the Biltmore Hotel, the Los Angeles Host Lions Club currently meets at Taix Restaurant in the Echo Park community, just north of downtown Los Angeles, where it now concentrates its service activities.

Today, the Los Angeles Host Lions Club participates in many projects, including:

Providing volunteers at health fairs to work the Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit, an RV vehicle outfitted so an eye professional can screen low-income patients for visual acuity and possible eye diseases such as glaucoma.

Sponsoring two Leo Clubs, teenage leadership development programs in conjunction with inner-city youth centers: The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center and El Centro del Pueblo in Echo Park. The sponsorship includes funding for travel and lodging for the Leos to attend regional leadership forums and other events.

Conducting community needs assessments to learn how the club can do the most good and serve more people.

Distributing food baskets/bags to families with children in inner-city schools.

Supporting district and multi-district projects such as Lions Camp at Teresita Pines, the Student Speakers Contest, Lions in Sight, and Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Participating in the celebration and recognition of Flag Day by distributing American flags with patriotic presentations at local elementary schools.

Sponsoring inner-city youth as participants in the California Youth Exchange Program, which provides them an opportunity to spend six weeks with participating Lion families in Japan and Europe. In exchange, the club hosts teenagers coming from other Lions clubs from Europe or Japan.

Helping to decorate the Lions float appearing in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

Participating with community partners on projects that focus on the environment.

The Los Angeles Host Lions Club has had a great 100-year tradition. The vitality of its members and their commitment to service assures us all that the motto of Lions, "We Serve," will be upheld for many years to come. On Saturday, September 29, 2018, the L.A. Host Club will hold its Centennial Gala Celebration at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Los Angeles in Commerce. More than 300 Lions and friends from throughout California will attend to commemorate this significant milestone.

Mr. Speaker, Congressmembers WATERS, NAPOLITANO, SCHIFF, CHU, BASS, GOMEZ, and I ask our colleagues to please join us in celebrating the Los Angeles Host Lions Club's 100th anniversary. We also thank the Lions for their service, and for improving the quality of life of those they have worked with and helped.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY'S 2018 DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREE, MS. ANNIE SIMONIAN TOTAH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armenian Assembly's 2018 Distinguished Humanitarian Award honoree, Ms. Annie Simonian Totah.

For over forty years, Ms. Totah has been a leading defender of human rights and a vocal advocate of Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian-American community. Ms. Totah was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Armenian Assembly of America and she remains an effective spokesperson for Armenian issues on Capitol Hill. Her life as a community leader and activist has truly been a journey of dedication.

I have known Annie throughout my entire congressional career and I can say without hesitation that Annie's passion, dedication and commitment to Armenia and Artsakh is unparalleled. Since the demise of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Annie has worked tirelessly with Members of Congress to help secure billions of dollars in assistance to Armenia. Her contributions with the Armenian Assembly have included efforts that saw the enactment of several pieces of legislation and Missions to Armenia that have raised awareness and understanding of key issues.

Ms. Totah helped mobilize relief efforts to provide temporary shelters for the homeless victims of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, and collaborated with the Marshall Legacy Institute to help launch the "Mine Detection Dog-Partnership" program in Armenia. Annie was also involved early on in the creation of the U.S.-Armenia Task Force for Economic Cooperation, and continues to encourage trade and investment between the two countries.

Ms. Totah is the recipient of many honors and awards, including: The Ellis Island Medal of Honor; Medal of Appreciation by the President of Artsakh; and the Encyclical of Gratitude and Appreciation by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Annie Totah and the Armenian Assembly on this occasion and for its powerful voice and professionalism that has truly made a difference.

TRIBUTE TO LUKE GWARTNEY AND THE JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FALLEN OFFICERS MEMORIAL

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young man in the Third District of Kansas for his hard work to ensure law enforcement officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities and uphold the law are not forgotten.

Earlier this month—on the anniversary of 9/11, I met 16-year-old Luke Gwartney, an Eagle Scout from Olathe West High School, at the dedication for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Fallen Officers Memorial.

I was inspired by Luke's story and hard work to create the Fallen Officers Memorial that brought us all together that day.

Luke worked tirelessly for months to find volunteers, get supplies, and receive donations to make this memorial a reality. In the end, he raised \$8,000 and was able to construct the memorial, which honors three exemplary police officers in our community who lost their lives in the line of duty over the last few years: Master Deputy Brandon Collins, Sgt. Willard Carver, and Det. Gerald Foote.

This memorial reminds us of the service and sacrifice of our law enforcement officers and continues to honor them with the gratitude and respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking Luke for adding this wonderful contribution to our community.

CELEBRATING DR. WADE MCLEOD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to celebrate Dr. Wade McLeod's forty-five years of incredible service to the Round Rock community. Dr. McLeod's life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for Central Texas.

As one of four veterinarians in his family, it could be said that Dr. McLeod's passion for veterinary medicine is in his blood. Raised on a West Texas ranch near Sweetwater, he graduated from the Texas A&M University veterinary program in 1969 and opened Round Rock's first veterinary clinic in 1973. In no time, his practice became one of the most beloved animal clinics in the city.

While Round Rock has grown over the years, Dr. McLeod has nurtured a small-town feel at the clinic. His practice focuses on small pets and he employs tried-and-true business practices to keep costs to a minimum that translate into savings for his patients. Dr. McLeod's business acumen, work ethic, and commitment to putting customers first speak to the common-sense values that Texans hold dear.

This small business leader is also an activist who responds to those in need. Over the years, Dr. McLeod has worked with patients who could not afford medical care for their pets and provided treatment for injured strays. He donated half of his clinic space to volunteers who cared for stray animals before there was a shelter in the area. Through his selfless devotion to others, Dr. McLeod has impacted countless families and is a beloved pillar of the Round Rock community.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. I thank Dr. Wade McLeod for his service and dedication to his community. I proudly join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing nothing but the best for his richly-deserved retirement.

HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY
(TAIWAN)

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, October 10, or Double Ten Day, is the national day of Taiwan. Given the warm ties between the United States and Taiwan, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

The United States and Taiwan, despite our lack of an official diplomatic relationship, are important economic and security partners. From a security standpoint, as pledged in the Taiwan Relations Act, we continue to support democracy in Taiwan through our arms sales. I would also like to call to attention the recent Taiwan related provisions, enacted into law in August of this year, in conjunction with the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2019. This newly enacted law reiterates that the TRA and the Six Assurances are the cornerstones of our relations with Taiwan. In addition, it calls for the strengthening of defense cooperation with Taiwan to ensure Taiwan can maintain sufficient self-defense capability; for supporting Taiwan's acquisition of defensive weapons; and for more predictability with respect to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

Where trade and economic prosperity are concerned, our two countries have made great strides. In 2017, Taiwan was ranked as the 11th largest trading partner of the United States, the 11th largest U.S. export market overall and the 7th largest market for U.S. agricultural products. Taiwan imported \$3.57 billion of food and agricultural products from the U.S., representing more than 28 percent of total imports of those products. Taiwan regularly sponsors trade missions to the United States in pursuit of agricultural products. Last year those missions culminated in the signing of letters of intent to purchase approximately \$2.8 billion in U.S.-produced grains between 2018 and 2019. Just in late September, another trade mission from Taiwan visited the United States in pursuit of \$300 million of soybeans purchases. Our two countries should and will continue to seek avenues where we can work together, and I hope my colleagues will join me in promoting this cooperation wherever possible.

I ask my House colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan all the best as they celebrate Double Ten Day.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES AND
ROBERT NELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Frances and Robert Nelson of Atlantic, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 23, 1953 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic.

Frances and Robert's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anni-

versary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. BARR

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise and pay tribute to fellow Hoosier and American patriot Richard L. Barr. For ten years, Rick has tirelessly worked to engage, educate, and empower fellow citizens to take part in the American political process. He is the definition of an American Citizen-Statesman.

A lifelong Hoosier and Hendricks County resident, Rick is a man of deep civic conviction rooted in his love for American history and family. He is a dedicated husband, a loving father of 3, and a devoted grandfather of 4. It is Rick's love and concern for his children's and grandchildren's futures that drives him to volunteer so much of his time for the American cause.

As a founding member and current leader of the Indy Defenders of Liberty-West, Rick has utilized his leadership role to educate the public so that his fellow citizens are informed citizens. He spends hours researching issues and the historical context of those issues to invite knowledgeable speakers to the organization's monthly meetings. In addition, under Rick's direction, IDOL-West has also served the community by hosting several non-partisan candidate forums and many public meetings focused on local, state, or federal issues. I can personally attest that the relationships Rick cultivated, locally and statewide, have been successful in activating citizens. Oftentimes, my office has received calls or visits from constituents at Rick's suggestion.

Rick Barr is a good man and a good citizen. He is faithful in his belief that America is worth his time promoting limited government based on the United States Constitution.

Today, I am honored to acknowledge Rick Barr for his leadership, generosity, and dedication to our community, state, and country. I am proud to call him my friend.

IN ITS 50TH YEAR, ANNUAL MAINE
BALD EAGLE TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
COMEBACK OF AMERICAN ICON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th running of an important annual event in my state that highlights the comeback of an American icon.

In 1969, Dick Anderson led his first trip for Maine Audubon to try to spot bald eagles in

Maine's Merrymeeting Bay. At the time, it was the last accessible place in the entire state to see a nesting pair—a result of the terrible toll the pesticide DDT had taken on the nation's bald eagle population, which had dwindled to just over 400 pairs in the continental U.S. in the 1960s.

Anderson continued to bring people to Merrymeeting Bay annually. In the early years, they were lucky to see one or two eagles. But as a national ban on DDT, the Endangered Species Act, and other environmental laws did their work, these trips yielded more birds every year. As Maine Audubon continues the annual tradition—holding its 50th cruise this month—participants can now expect to see at least 50 bald eagles.

What a sight it is to see these great birds soar high in the air, dive to snatch a fish from the water, or perch upon their massive nests. It's astonishing to think how close we came to losing this living symbol of our nation. This species' recovery from the brink of extinction is an amazing success story for federal environmental protections.

But this story is not yet over. I'm afraid a new chapter is now being written as efforts are underway, both in Congress and under the current Administration, to weaken the Endangered Species Act and other protections. Now is not the time to undo the progress we have made. In fact, with climate change and other environmental threats before us, we need these laws more than ever—not just for bald eagles, but also for the hundreds of wildlife species that remain on the threatened and endangered lists.

Again, I congratulate Maine Audubon on its 50th eagle trip and commend Dick Anderson and other conservation leaders for protecting the incredible natural resources in my state. I hope these trips continue to see more and more bald eagles every year—because that would mean we are still doing our job in Washington to responsibly steward the lands, waters, and wildlife that are in our trust.

SHERIFF RICK DUNLAP TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Rick Dunlap for his service to his community and nation.

Originally from Tennessee, Rick grew up in an impoverished family. A large part of his childhood was spent working in his family's tobacco fields, using those earnings to help support his family. It wasn't long before he realized there was so much to see and experience in the world, so he joined the United States Army at 17 to serve his country. Upon completing basic and advanced training, Sheriff Dunlap was sent to Vietnam. While overseas, he was attached to the 101st Airborne Division as a member of a helicopter platoon and later served in the Asha Valley for Operation Lam Son 719.

As the result of his heroic service during Operation Lam Son, Rick and his fellow crew members were awarded the Bronze Star and the Medal of Valor. Throughout his military career, Rick served in many roles including field artilleryman, helicopter door gunner, aviation